

MEDIA RELEASE: Bega joins global climate wake-up call 21.09.2009

Bega's first ever flashmob assembled in the forecourt of the University of Wollongong campus in Auckland Street, Bega to add their voices to a resounding wake-up call to world leaders before they meet in New York on September 22 for critical climate talks. The Bega action was one of 2300 similar events in 130 countries worldwide.

Polls show 90% of people worldwide see climate change as a serious problem. Experts say a UN climate pact in Copenhagen in December risks failure unless world leaders revive bogged-down negotiations.

"The idea of a global climate wake-up call got going just a few weeks ago, and it's snowballing into a massive mobilisation of millions around the world who want leaders to do more to stop runaway climate change," said Greens Councillor Keith Hughes an Avaaz.org member and convenor of the South East Region Conservation Alliance.

After raising their mobile phones with alarm bells ringing, the climate action flashmob rang Parliament House in Canberra to press on Ministers Wong and Ferguson the need for real climate action and the importance of getting climate talks on track to deliver a "fair ambitious and binding" new climate treaty. Callers also took the opportunity to urge Ministers to reject the biomass burner proposed for the woodchip mill at Eden entrenching native forest woodchipping.

"At a time when one of the few practical measures proposed by the Australian Government to tackle climate change is help to curb logging overseas because of their vast stores of carbon sequestered naturally, it is both outrageous and hypocritical that government policies continue to prop up woodchipping of Australia's native forests" said Cr Hughes

"We are taking part to help show the huge level of public concern that climate talks move far and fast enough to deliver a deal that will avert climate catastrophe and unleash a new green economy."

A broad coalition of major environmental and anti-poverty organisations as well as faith, civic and youth networks - called the TCKTCKTCK campaign for the ticking-clock urgency of climate change - is backing the campaign effort.

Photo: Bega's first flashmob phones Canberra for global climate wake-up call - pictured, from left Martin Planert (partly obscured), Jane Burton, Dorte Planert, Chris Warner, Rosemary Beaumont, Geoffrey Badger, Harriett Swift and Stuart Absalom

